

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A printing system, comprising:

an inkjet printhead configured to traverse bi-directionally over a printzone printing one swath in a first direction, and a subsequent swath in a second direction opposite the first direction, with the printhead rising to a base temperature in response to a pre-warming signal prior to beginning each swath;

a temperature sensor configured to monitor a temperature of the printhead; and

a controller configured to generate the pre-warming signal in response to an end of swath temperature monitored by the temperature sensor following conclusion of printing the one swath, wherein the controller sets the base temperature for printing the one swath at a first temperature, and the base temperature for printing the subsequent swath at a second temperature above the first temperature, and~~The printing system of claim 3,~~ wherein the second temperature is a fixed value.

5. (Previously presented) The printing system of claim 4, wherein the fixed value is 0.5°-3.5°C above the first temperature.

6. (Previously presented) The printing system of claim 4, wherein the fixed value is about two degrees Celsius above the first temperature.

7. (Currently amended) A printing system, comprising:

an inkjet printhead configured to traverse bi-directionally over a printzone printing one swath in a first direction, and a subsequent swath in a second direction opposite the first direction, with the printhead rising to a base temperature in response to a pre-warming signal prior to beginning each swath;

a temperature sensor configured to monitor a temperature of the printhead; and

a controller configured to generate the pre-warming signal in response to an end of swath temperature monitored by the temperature sensor following conclusion of printing the one swath, wherein the controller sets the base temperature for printing the one swath at a first temperature, and the base temperature for printing the subsequent swath at a second temperature above the first temperature, and~~The printing system of claim 3, wherein the rule-based-system allows the printhead temperature to drop to a third temperature below the first temperature prior to printing the subsequent swath.~~

8. (Original) The printing system of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to generate the pre-warming signal to elevate the printhead temperature from the third temperature to the second temperature prior to printing the subsequent swath.

9. (Previously presented) A printing system, comprising:

an inkjet printhead configured to traverse bi-directionally over a printzone printing one swath in a first direction, and a subsequent swath in a second direction opposite the first direction, with the printhead rising to a base temperature in response to a pre-warming signal prior to beginning each swath;

a temperature sensor configured to monitor a temperature of the printhead; and

a controller configured to generate the pre-warming signal in response to an end of swath temperature monitored by the temperature sensor following conclusion of printing the one swath, wherein the controller is configured to generate the pre-warming signal to set the base temperature for printing the one swath at a first temperature, and the base temperature for

printing the subsequent swath at a second temperature above the first temperature, with the second temperature being a fixed value less than the end of swath temperature for the one swath.

10. (Original) The printing system of claim 9, wherein the printhead temperature between printing the one swath and the subsequent swath is held at the second temperature prior to printing the subsequent swath.

11. (Original) The printing system of claim 9, wherein prior to printing the subsequent swath the printhead temperature is allowed to drop to a third temperature below the first temperature.

12. (Original) The printing system of claim 11, wherein prior to printing the subsequent swath, the controller is configured to generate the pre-warming signal to elevate the printhead temperature from the third temperature to the second temperature.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A printing system, comprising:

means for ejecting ink droplets bi-directionally over a printzone when printing one swath in a first direction, and a subsequent swath in a second direction opposite the first direction;

means for monitoring temperature of the means for ejecting; and

means for setting a base temperature prior to beginning a subsequent swath in response to an end of swath temperature monitored by the means for monitoring, wherein the means for setting sets the base temperature for printing the one swath at a first temperature, and the base temperature for printing the subsequent swath at a second temperature above the first temperature, with the second temperature being a fixed value less than the end of swath temperature for the one swath.

15. (Original) The printing system of claim 14, further comprising means for holding the printhead temperature between printing the one swath and the subsequent swath at the second temperature prior to printing the subsequent swath.

16. (Original) The printing system of claim 14, wherein the printhead temperature drops to a third temperature below the first temperature before activation of the means for setting.

17. (Original) The printing system of claim 16, wherein prior to printing the subsequent swath, the means for setting elevates the printhead temperature from the third temperature to the second temperature.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the changing is conducted in accordance with a rule-based system.

20. (Currently amended) A method for printing with an inkjet printhead bi-directionally over a printzone by printing one swath in a first direction and a subsequent swath in a second direction, comprising:

printing the one swath;

monitoring the temperature of the printhead;

in response to a monitored end of swath temperature following conclusion of printing the one print swath, changing the printhead temperature to a base temperature prior to beginning printing of the subsequent swath, wherein the changing sets the base temperature for printing the one swath at a first temperature, and the base temperature for printing the subsequent swath at a second temperature above the first temperature, and wherein the second temperature is a fixed

value; and

printing the subsequent swath.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method for printing with an inkjet printhead bi-directionally over a printzone by printing one swath in a first direction and a subsequent swath in a second direction, comprising:

printing the one swath;

monitoring the temperature of the printhead;

in response to a monitored end of swath temperature following conclusion of printing the one print swath, changing the printhead temperature to a base temperature prior to beginning printing of the subsequent swath, wherein the changing sets the base temperature for printing the one swath at a first temperature, and the base temperature for printing the subsequent swath at a second temperature above the first temperature;

The method of claim 20, further comprising allowing the printhead temperature to drop to a third temperature below the first temperature prior to printing the subsequent swath; and  
printing the subsequent swath.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the changing comprises elevating the printhead temperature from the third temperature to the second temperature prior to printing the subsequent swath.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) An inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:  
a carriage configured to traverse bi-directionally over a printzone;

an inkjet printhead supported by the carriage to print one swath in a first direction, and a subsequent swath at a second direction opposite the first direction, with the printhead rising to a base temperature in response to a pre-warming signal prior to beginning each swath;

a temperature sensor configured to monitor temperature of the printhead; and

a controller configured to generate the pre-warming signal in response to an end of swath temperature monitored by the temperature sensor following conclusion of printing the one swath, wherein the controller generates the pre-warming signal to set the base temperature for printing the one swath at a first temperature, and the base temperature for printing the subsequent swath at a second temperature above the first temperature, with the second temperature being a fixed value less than the end of swath temperature for the one swath.

27. (Original) The inkjet printing mechanism of claim 26, wherein the printhead temperature between printing the one swath and the subsequent swath is held at the second temperature prior to printing the subsequent swath.

28. (Original) The inkjet printing mechanism of claim 26, wherein prior to printing the subsequent swath the printhead temperature drops to a third temperature below the first temperature.

29. (Original) The inkjet printing mechanism of claim 28, wherein prior to printing the subsequent swath, the controller generates the pre-warming signal to elevate the printhead temperature from the third temperature to the second temperature.